

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS NIACT IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 089686

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, GR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER

1. PLEASE CONVEY FOLLOWING LETTER DATED APRIL 6 FROM
PRESIDENT CARTER TO PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS AT THE
EARLIEST APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY:

BEGIN TEXT:

(A) DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER:

I HAVE ASKED AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY TO DELIVER THIS MESSAGE
TO YOU AND TO PASS ON MY HIGHEST PERSONAL REGARDS.

(B) I AM PLEASED THAT A MAN OF HIS STATURE AND ABILITY
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WILL BE REPRESENTING THE UNITED STATES AT A TIME WHEN BOTH
OUR NATIONS ARE TRYING TO RESOLVE AN ARRAY OF WORLDWIDE
PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.
THE RESTORATION OF YOUR DEMOCRACY IN GREECE AND THE
STRENGTHENING OF YOUR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS SINCE 1974
ARE A SOURCE OF SATISFACTION AND COMFORT TO THE ENTIRE
WESTERN WORLD. I AM AWARE OF THE HISTORIC ROLE YOU PLAYED

IN THIS PROCESS; I KNOW THAT ROLE WILL CONTINUE AS GREECE ENTERS THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, AN ENTITY WHOSE IDEALS AND ASPIRATIONS WE SHARE.

(C) WE HAVE GONE FAR IN THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS TOWARD IMPROVING THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR NATIONS. THIS PROGRESS MUST CONTINUE. ONLY THROUGH A SOLID RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND GREECE, BASED ON MUTUAL RESPECT AND CONFIDENCE, CAN WE MEET THE CHALLENGES WHICH CONFRONT US. IN THIS EFFORT I PLEDGE TO YOU MY FULL COOPERATION.

(D) FROM THE BEGINNING OF THIS ADMINISTRATION, WE HAVE BELIEVED THAT, WITH GOOD WILL, SUSTAINED EFFORT AND COOPERATION WITH OUR FRIENDS, WE COULD ACHIEVE A JUST SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE PLAGUED THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.

(E) YOU HAVE BY THIS TIME BEEN INFORMED OF THE PROPOSALS MY ADMINISTRATION WILL PRESENT TO THE CONGRESS. I WISH ;O ASSURE YOU THAT THESE DECISIONS WERE TAKEN AFTER THE MOST CAREFUL REVIEW OF ALL ELEMENTS OF OUR POLICY IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. THROUGH THIS PROGRAM WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE SEVERAL FUNDAMENTAL GOALS. WE WANT TO STRENGTHEN OUR BI-LATERAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY. WE MUST WORK TOWARD STRENGTHENING NATO'S SOUTHERN FLANK, THUS MAINTAINING ALLIED SECURITY INTERESTS IN THE REGION. AT THE SAME TIME, WE WANT TO FACILITATE A JUST AND EQUITABLE

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SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, SOMETHING WHICH HAS TRAGICALLY ELUDED US FOR TOO LONG A TIME. WE ARE CONFIDENT THE TIME IS RIPE TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS; WE MUST NOW WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE THEIR REALIZATION FOR THE CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE WOULD BE INCALCULABLE FOR ALL OF US.

(F) I UNDERSTAND THE DIFFICULT DECISIONS WHICH LIE AHEAD IF THERE IS TO BE A JUST CYPRUS SETTLEMENT AND A RESOLUTION OF THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE. WE IN THE UNITED STATES STAND READY TO DO WHATEVER WE CAN TO HELP. WE ALL MUST PERSEVERE IN OUR EFFORTS TO SEEK A NEW SITUATION IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN WHICH IS CONSISTENT WITH THE DESIRES AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE AREA, AND ONE IN WHICH WE CAN ALL SUSTAIN ONE ANOTHER AS FRIENDS.

(G) IN THE COMING MONTHS, GREECE WILL HAVE AN INCREASING ROLE TO PLAY IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN AND IN EUROPE. I AM PLEASED TO KNOW THAT YOU WILL BE LEADING THESE EFFORTS AT A TIME WHEN STATESMANSHIP AND REASON WILL BE GREATLY NEEDED. I WILL WELCOME YOUR ADVICE, AND I HOPE THAT YOU WILL GIVE ME YOUR VIEWS AT ANY TIME AND IN ANY MANNER YOU CONSIDER APPROPRIATE.

(H) AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY HAS MY FULL CONFIDENCE AND WILL
WANT TO WORK AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE WITH YOU ON ALL THE
ISSUES WHICH CONCERN US. I HOPE YOU WILL SHARE WITH THE

AMBASSADOR YOUR THOUGHTS ON HOW OUR NATIONS CAN BEST
WORK TOGETHER. I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN, IN
WASHINGTON IN MAY.

(I) WITH WARMEST GREETINGS AND PERSONAL BEST WISHES,
SINCERELY, JIMMY CARTER. END TEXT

2. SIGNED ORIGINAL OF LETTER IS BEING POUCHED. WH;TE
HOUSE DOES NOT PLAN TO RELEASE TEXT. DEPARTMENT ASSUMES
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CARAMANLIS WOULD NOT WISH TO RELEASE EITHER, BUT SHOULD
HE WISH TO RELEASE, PLEASE ADVISE. VANCE

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NNN

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